The Lions' Pride

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Saint Leo Hosts First Annual "Arts in the Park"

By Madison Whatley
Contributing Writer

Fans of poetry, photography, dance, music, drama, and stand-up comedy delighted in performances from Saint Leo University faculty, staff, students, and alumni as well as Dade City residents and students, at the Arts in the Park celebration in Dade City. The event was held at Agnes Lamb Park in the downtown area from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Though there were concerns of thunderstorms afflicting the area, the forecast shifted at the last minute to "partly cloudy," perfect park weather. And so, the show went on seamlessly in front of a crowd of about one-hundred people.

Local Band "Time Warp" opened up the show, and Saint Leo University faculty and staff choir Just the FACTS followed with their covers of 1960's songs. Just the FACTS will perform more groovy tunes at the fall concert "Change is Gonna Come: Music of the 60s" on Tuesday, Oct. 10 along with Saint Leo Singers, Totally TABS, Saint Leo Strings, and Saint Leo Rhythm Machine.

Frank Orlando, instructor of Political Science at Saint Leo took the stage as well. He is a novice stand-up comedian, and his act earned several laughs from the crowd. Orlando also can be caught performing his comedy at the Friday Night Open Mics at the Abbey Tavern across the street from University Campus.

Saint Leo's theater program previewed their upcoming performance of "The Secret in the Wings," a play about "loving the unlovable" according to sophomore computer science major Madison Bonnell, an actress in the production.

"I think that the crowd really got a kick out of our performance," she stated. "We love being connected to the people around the campus and being able to show them what we work so hard to perfect. It's important for Saint Leo to be involved in events like [Arts in the Park] because it demonstrates our core value of Community."

This fall is the first semester that Bonnell has been involved in the drama program. "The Secret in the Wings" is projected to go on in early November at the Saint Leo Black Box Theater.

Instructor of Professional Writing at Saint Leo Marissa McLargin, instructor of professional writing, was the event coordinator. McLargin was proud of the event.

"We were pleased with the turnout," she said. "It was the first year for this event, and getting the word out was important. We were happy with the crowd and felt that the crowd was happy with the show. The performers were amazing—so much talent, in different genres, all on one stage." The event was co-sponsored by the Dade City Youth Council, Saint Leo University School of Arts and Sciences, Magic Space, and Friday Night Open Mic. Megan Orendorf, the administrator of events and special programs, operated the School of Arts and Sciences tent at the event. The mayor of Dade City Camille Hernandez was also present at the event.

The Dade City Youth Council hid painted rocks around the park for children to find, and the child that found the special rock was generously awarded a $20 gift card to a local toy store. There were also arts and craft activities available for children to enjoy. Local youth displayed their talents in performances with Blackwood Studios school of dance and Arts in Motion, a non-profit youth theater and arts education program.

The crowd also enjoyed a poetry reading from Instructor of Creative Writing, Gianna Russo. Ms. Russo also appreciated the spirit of the community event.

"I was honored and grateful to be part of our inaugural Arts in the Park," she said. "I was very happy to be preceded and followed by student singers, musicians, and actors. It was a fun time and a wonderful tradition for Saint Leo and Dade City to establish."

Russo was recently named Best Local Poet of 2017 by Creative Loafing's Best of the Bay Reader's poll. Russo is also the Editor-in-Chief of Saint Leo's Literary Magazine "Sandhill Review." The literary magazine is accepting submissions of poetry, prose, and artwork for the 2017-18 issue themed "My America" through the rest of October.

Another Friday Night Open Mic frequenter took the stage on Saturday. Senior Business Management major Edward Gemma performed an interesting selection of songs varying in genres. His most moving performance was a cover of Eric Church's "Why Not Me," a new song dedicated to the victims of the Las Vegas shooting that occurred earlier this month.

"As a country artist, and just a musician in general, I understand how music can play a role in recovery after something like what we saw in Vegas happens," Gemma said of the song. "What music can do is take the worst humanity has to offer and make it bearable."

After a confusing and disheartening week, Dade City and Saint Leo University were strengthened by the sense of community brought on by joining together to appreciate each other's talents.

Political Science instructor Frank Orlando performed a stand-up comedy routine featuring relateable humor.

Madison Bonnell plays a picky princess with a distate of laughter in the skit from Saint Leo's upcoming production of the dark fairytale, "The Secret in the Wings."

Photos by Madison Whatley

Editorial

The Top 10 Mistakes College Students Make

By Austin Chiavaroli
Contributing Writer

Going to college is both a fun and smart choice for youth to make in their life. However, with this choice comes new experiences as well as new mistakes to potentially make. These mistakes can make the "fun" view of college turn into frustration or even a total nightmare for some students. So, to help stop some students from making the same mistakes that others have made, here are the top 10 that most often occur.

10. Thinking that Electives Are Easy

Elective courses often get the short end of the stick because many students think that no effort goes into passing them. However, there is a good chunk of them in which one will need to devote time to if they want to succeed. Never underestimate any class' workload because sooner or later, an elective will be harder than you ever thought it could be.

9. Not Getting a Side Job

Let's face it, money is a major necessity to survive in the world; and a good way to make money is, of course, getting a job. Now, a lot of students are hesitant to get a job because it takes up time, but most jobs will work around students' schedules. Also, if an outside job is too daunting, there are on-campus jobs that are perfect for students. Just make sure to apply for them at the beginning of the semester before they fill up. Plus, this is a good way to gain some experience for a résumé.

8. Isolating Oneself from People

While many break out of their shell in their sophomore or junior year of college, many freshmen and early undergrads are still stuck with the "high school hierarchy" mentality. Due to this, the first year of college can be lonely and downright depressing with a lack of socialization. The people on campus, whether it be staff or students, are often fun and interesting individuals with their own goals and problems. It might be surprising how easy it actually is to make friends in college compared to how it was in grade school.

7. Doing a Group Project with a Girlfriend/ Boyfriend

A group project with one's special someone sounds like a great time. However, many young relationships don't last long, so, sooner or later, breaking up becomes a possibility. Where does one go from there? Nowhere. A student would then be stuck with a person whom they feel bitter toward and would be forced to finish the project with them. Pick a friend to work with or someone new to make friends with.

6. Less School, More Partying

College students are finally adults. The world is their playground, and they just want to have fun. I mean, who doesn't? However, this is a university and students are here on a mission: to earn a degree. A few parties here and there can be great for students to let go of some stress and steam. Although, don't get distracted with too many parties and forgot about classes and assignments. Have fun, but still be responsible in one's school life as well.

5. All-Nighters During the School Week

"Oh, no! I wasted my work time today watching a show and hanging out with friends! It's okay, though, I'll just pull an all-nighter." This is a go-to way for students to get work done without having to worry about time. While this isn't the worst idea, the body and mind will think that it is. The work albeit does get done, however, if you have classes the following day, it may be difficult to stay awake during the lessons. If the urge to pull an all-nighter ever strikes, at least do it on a Friday or Saturday so one can sleep in the next morning.

4. Procrastinating on Assignments

Everyone has been guilty of doing this at least once throughout their educational track. A student is assigned something important, but so many other things come up or they simply completely forget to write it down. Suddenly, the student has a make or break assignment due the following day, and they haven't even started it yet. Very few times will the student come out victorious in this situation, so it would be beneficial to write the assignment down and start it as soon as possible. The quicker it gets done, the less stress the student suffers.

3. Not Using Tutors

The feeling of being able to understand a course's material independently feels really great and rewarding. However, if a student really can't wrap their head around a concept, the tutors in the C.A.V.E. are there to help. Researching a topic that is difficult to understand can sometimes be in vain. It is better to utilize the tutors who are there to help students work through subjects in a less stressful and sometimes simpler way.

2. Not Going to Teachers' Office Hours

College isn't like high school in the sense that it is rare to ask teachers for any kind of help. The professors on campus have office hours for a reason. This is one of the best ways for teachers to help students with subjects one-on-one. Not going to the professors for help is a mistake commonly made due to students feeling like they are bothering them or that they are intimidating. Don't be afraid of professors. They are human just like you and know how hard courses can be.

1. Not Reading the Course Material/ Books

After paying all that money to buy the books necessary for succeeding in a course, where do the books go? They often don't even get opened until it's time for a test. This is the greatest mistake that a shocking amount of students make all the time. It is understandable that students have a life to live outside of school, but reading the course material is a key part of passing any class.

College is still a fun and exciting place where students have the potential to make many memories, whether good or bad. If students try to avoid these commonly made mistakes, they are sure to have an even more stress-free time at Saint Leo.

Saint Leo University Students to Retry Lee Harvey Oswald.

By: Staff Writer

According to a recently deceased member of the Warren Commission, the commission knew Lee Harvey Oswald was not the assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Now that this information has been leaked, public outcry has caused the U.S. government to agree to a new trial.

In addition to public outcry, the Oswald family supports this initiative. They have been trying for years to clear their family name.

"We want the world to know he was wrongfully accused," said his family member. "Plus, we have not been able to obtain our inheritance because of this despicable injustice."

In order to have an unbiased jury, President Trump stipulated that modern-day college students would provide the safest, least biased group possible. More than 1000 universities applied to be chosen for the jury pool, and Saint Leo was chosen based on a lottery system.

"I believe Saint Leo students will make a fine jury. They will be the best jury available and they will receive rave reviews for their effort," President Trump stated on Twitter.

According to the federal government, on Nov. 22, 1963 Oswald, a former U.S. marine, assassinated President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas during a motorcade through Dealey Plaza. He was originally arrested for the murder of J.D. Tippit, a Dallas police officer, who was killed 45 minutes before Kennedy was shoot. Oswald was later charged with Kennedy's murder. Days later, when Oswald was being transferred from the city jail to the county jail, he was murdered by Jack Ruby. Ruby, who owned a Dallas nightclub, shot him in front of a televised audience during a live broadcast.

Rudy told the Warren Commission that he was distraught over Kennedy's death.

"I was saving Mrs. Kennedy the discomfiture of coming back to trial," he said during his testimony.

A year later, the Warren Commission concluded Oswald acted alone in the assassination. These findings were supported by investigations from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secret Service, and the Dallas Police Department.

The chief counsel for the House Select Committee on Assassination from 1977-79, G. Robert Blakey, believed both men were attached to organized crime. He believed Oswald carried out a hit for the mob, and then Ruby was contracted by the mob to kill Oswald.

"The most plausible explanation for the murder of Oswald by Jack Ruby was that Ruby had stalked him on behalf of organized crime, trying to reach him on at least three occasions in the forty-eight hours before he silenced him forever, said Blakey in Ronald Goldfarb's book Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes: Robert F. Kennedy's War Against Organized Crime.

For years, conspiracy theories have abounded, but on Nov. 3-4, 2017, Saint Leo students will hear the evidence and decide once and for all if Oswald really did murder Kennedy.

Campus News

The Heart of a Poet: Gianna Russo Wins Prestigious Award

By Emily Kochanski
Campus News Editor

On Sep. 28, a member of Saint Leo's Creative Writing team proved that she was among the "Best of the Bay." Gianna Russo, the Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing, took home a Reader's Choice Award for Best Local Poet. The award was presented by Creative Loafing: Tampa Bay.

Russo has been a member of the University's Creative Writing department for seven years, but writing has been a major part of her life for far longer than that.

"I've been a writer since childhood. My parents were great readers and storytellers," Russo elaborated. "I wrote poems all through middle and high school, but never showed them to anyone. In college, I finally met my first poet—another student—and began to call myself a poet."

Russo previously took home the Critic's Choice award for Best Poetry in Motion in 2011. She describes her more recent win as positively "thrilling."

"I'm honored because there are a whole lot of terrific poets in the Tampa Bay area," said Russo. "And because poetry is usually so much on the outskirts of American life, it's just great to have it recognized at all."

Russo has had several of her poems published, and many are also available through online literary magazines. One of her latest pieces will be published in a magazine called the "Green Mountains Review" and will be available on their website later this month. Some of her other works, such as her full-length poetry collection titled "Moonflower," can be found on Amazon.

Though a little recognition is always nice, Russo's main source of joy comes from the writing experience itself, not the awards.

"I know it's a cliché', but writing is a way for me to express myself," Russo Said. "It's also my way of contributing to our common humanity. That's sounds kind of high-flown, I know, but it feels like truth."

Russo encourages all of her students to follow their passions, whatever they may be. For aspiring writers, she advises them to "keep writing and keep reading." To read some of Gianna Russo's work, head to Amazon.com or stop by her office anytime. Be sure to check out her latest poem at http://greenmountainsreview.com/about-2/ when it goes viral later this month.

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Photo by Emily Kochanski

Russo once preferred writing primarily about her personal experiences, but her horizons were broadened during her time as a college student. "I try to find ways to sync what is happening in the world with what is going on or has gone on in my life," she said, describing her new works.

Worldly

Crisis in Venezuela

Brian Cerosky

Contributing Writer

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

The youth are often the ones protesting against the government, even going so far as to stare down the national guard of Venezuela in defiance to make a compelling and silent argument for change.

For more than four years, the oil-rich Latin American country of Venezuela has experienced a significant turn for the worse both politically and economically, sending millions of native Venezuelans into poverty and sparking outrage and protest across the country. Thousands now flee the country to seek a better life for themselves elsewhere, while others cross the border into Colombia to purchase food and water because none can be found locally.

"The current situation includes shortages of food and medicines, the world's highest criminal rate, dreadful sanitary conditions, constant violation of human rights, numerous corruption scandals, political prisoners, and inflation," said Laura Perez, a junior from Venezuela.

Perez left Venezuela in 2014 to study in the United States, and this was around the time in Venezuela when the prices were shooting up, safety issues were arising, and the food shortages was starting, according to Perez. Also, Perez's entire family also currently resides in Venezuela, and she traveled back to Venezuela during this past summer in the heart of the crisis.

"My experience in the midst of the crisis was awful. It was difficult for me to adapt to all the restrictions that everyone must accomplish to be safe in my country. The insecurity problem is worse than ever and I was so stressed out trying to be aware of everything happening in my surroundings. At the same, it was shocking to see how the food and medicine shortage have increased. It is a horrible situation that includes deplorable human conditions."

These problems and social issues appear to stem from the political unrest in the country, which seems to have started with the election of Hugo Chavez then carried through with the most recent incident of Chavez's party, United Socialist Party of Venezuela, which was speculated to be rigged. Nevertheless, this election was later ruled valid by the Supreme Court of Venezuela. However, in Venezuela, this is not a matter for the Supreme Court to decide, but rather the National Assembly of Venezuela, the equivalent to United States' own Congress.

"The situation of Venezuela is terrible. As a Venezuelan, [it] is very hard for me to explain all the deficiencies that Venezuelan people encounter daily. Venezuela is submerged in a case of extreme poverty, insecurity, corruption, political division and thousands of immigrants looking for a brighter future away from their relatives."

- Laura Perez, a Saint Leo student from Venezuala.

Photo from @TheProudDonkey

Due to falling agricultural supplies and increased food costs, thousands of Venezuelan children are becoming malnourished of vital nutrients for healthy growth, leading to increased illness, injury, and stunted growth.

The Venezuelan National Assembly has been hard at work in an attempt to stop Venezuela's decline as well, passing numerous bills and proposing multiple solutions to Maduro. However, Maduro, along with his Supreme Court, continue to overturn the Assembly's laws and solutions, ruling them unconstitutional. Human rights groups around the world, along with the Venezuelan National Assembly itself, have since denounced Maduro as a dictator, who is abusing his power and disregarding the rule of law to enforce his rule over Venezuela. Maduro has also called for the National Assembly to be dissolved, sparking outrage amongst the 14 million Venezuelans who voted in favor of the Assembly in the elections of Dec. of 2015. As a result, thousands of Venezuelans took to the streets in protest.

"The reasons behind the protest are numerous, but the primary reason why the protest started was the government's announcement informing that they would dissolve Venezuela National Assembly. I believe that this announcement was the last thing that Venezuelans could support. The elimination of the National Assembly meant the end of democracy. This dissolution was the only independent institution acting against Nicolas Maduro regime," said Perez. "The government decided to disrespect the people's decision and just dissolve the organization."

Because of the above actions, hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans took to the streets again in mass protest during the summer of 2016. Hundreds if not thousands have died as a result of the Bolivarian backlash to the protests, leading to even more violence and animosity between the two sides, according to Business Insider and the Wall Street Journal.

President Maduro, in an attempt to appease his people, set forth several economic and social executive orders from 2013 to 2015, but only managed to make the situation worse. The global fall in oil prices is considered to be the primary cause of such drastic economic disaster, as the Venezuelan economy depends upon it almost exclusively, however, Maduro's reforms didn't help any either.

Worldly

"In my opinion, Nicolas Maduro does not have any criteria; all the policies that he has been implementing in Venezuela are influenced by Cuba's government. I think that his Bolivarian ideals do not work at all. These ideals are just trying to expand the communism in the region," said Perez.

Perez also commented on what she deems is the root cause of the issues faced by Venezuelans and she offered a solution.

"In my opinion, the corruption is the major cause of the issues faced by Venezuela. The only solution to all the previously mentioned problems is the exit of Nicolas Maduro from power," said Perez. "He is not prepared to the responsibility he has. All the socialist practices that have been implemented by the government does not work for people, and that is why the situation gets worse with the passage of the time."

According to the Wall Street Journal, the Venezuelan currency has since been downgraded, and the inflation rate has exceeded 100%. Basic commodities, such as bread, cereal products, eggs, milk, and other foodstuffs, are in short supply, and the food that is available is too expensive to purchase for the average Venezuelan. According to reporters at CNN, in an effort to stifle the shortages and rising costs, Maduro enacted an executive order that declared Venezuela to be in a state of national emergency, as well as including a provision that forces the nation's citizens to work in agricultural fields for a period of 60 days.

"Even though both of my parents are professionals and work every day it is difficult for them to buy food and medicines. It is so expensive to find first necessity items, and when you finally find them, the prices are incredibly high," said Perez. "For example, Venezuela's minimum wage is equivalent to $12.53. Someone that is paid that amount has enough to buy 2 liters of milk, and they would have no more money for the rest of the month."

Sadly, thousands of others are resigned to eating scraps by following garbage trucks throughout their city, taking anything that is edible and consuming trash just to survive. In fact, according to the newspaper "Diaro Las Americas," a prominent Spanish newspaper for the Hispanic community worldwide, more than 15 percent of all Venezuelans eat garbage on a daily basis, mostly discarded from richer communities and commercial establishments such as restaurants, movie theaters, and sporting facilities.

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

Altamira Square in downtown Caracas was the hot spot in 2016 and 2017 where thousands of Venezuelans gathered during the "Mother of All Marches" to protest against the government.

"I have seen people who survive this way," said Perez. "When I went to Venezuela in May, I realized that every time I was around the city, I saw two or three people eating from the garbage. It was incredible hard for me to see how the government policies and ideals of communism has driven people into extreme poverty and hunger."

Also, there are issues in the prison system as well. In late 2016, according to Fox News Latino, more than 40 inmates were murdered, dismembered, and consumed by the other inmates of a prison after government officials were forced to abandon state-run prison facilities. More than 200 prison riots broke out across Venezuela, leading to the breakout of thousands of convicts throughout the country, also according to the same source.

Clearly, Venezuela is in the midst of a catastrophic crisis that has seemingly no end in sight. Protests across the nation continue as Maduro attempts to hold onto his authoritative regime, stifling efforts for meaningful and comprehensive reform. In his neglectful wake, millions of Venezuelans suffer as they lack the necessities to survive. Only time and patience will tell if the people of Venezuela and the national community at large will continue to allow this state of affairs to continue much longer, or if the situation continues to degrade further under an inept and corrupt ruler.

History of Political Unrest in Venezuela

Brian Cerosky
Contributing Writer

According to an ongoing analysis by the BBC titled "Venezuelan Crisis: What is behind the turmoil?", much of this crisis began in 1998 with the election of Hugo Chavez, a member and proponent of the "Bolivarian Revolution;" a left-wing populism social movement aimed at the implementation of popular democracy (a form of direct democracy), economic independence, revenue equality, and an end to political corruption once and for all. Upon winning the election, Chavez began implementing revolutionary reforms in Venezuela, even going so far as to write a completely new constitution for the nation.

Chavez made it his mission to help the poor, and by exporting vast quantities of oil from Venezuela's rich oil fields, he was able to implement radical social programs that elevated even the lowest people of Venezuelan society. Venezuelan society soared to great heights during the Chavez era due to high oil prices, but the nation's dependence on oil and using those exports as a basis for the nation's progressive social programs is ultimately not smart once oil prices drop.

Although this sounds great, the opposition to these radical reforms, who were largely the more conservative elements of the Venezuelan government, launched an unsuccessful coup d'état in early 2002 and sparked a massive national strike from late 2002 to 2003. These setbacks to Chavez's government saw that the conservative "old guard" of Venezuelan society was not at all accepting of this Bolivarian Revolution and would do anything to see Chavez and his socialist party ousted. These clashes between conservatives and Bolivarian radicals would later plant the seeds for future conflict. In early 2013, Chavez passed away after losing his fight to cancer, and thus the subsequent 2013 presidential election became the first election since 1998 that Chavez's name did not appear on the ballot.

Despite Chavez's reforms, much of the country was plunged further into poverty by the late 2000's and into the early 2010's, putting Chavez's party in a less favorable light to Venezuelan voters. Despite this, the party of Chavez, called the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (or USPV), barely won the elections of 2013 with a vote total of 50.61%, resulting in the opposition parties demanding a recount. According to journalists present in Venezuela during the heated political climate, The Guardian reported that the Democratic Unity Roundtable Party even accused the USPV of fraud and that they were in direct violation of the constitution. Sometime later, the Supreme Court of Venezuela ruled that the election was valid and that the new president Nicolas Maduro was the republic's new leader.

Arts & Entertainment

"Cuphead" Brings Back Old-School Animation

By Travis Farmer
Staff Writer

One of the strangest games to be announced at Microsoft's E3 (Electronic Entertainment Expo) conference in 2014 was "Cuphead." An Xbox exclusive side-scrolling retro-cartoon inspired indie game released by two brothers as their first game.

"Cuphead" is a retro game in every meaning of the word. Its art style is the single most striking part of the game. The game is a made as a love letter to 80's and 90's kids who grew up watching old timey Disney movies while playing side scrolling run and gun games. The developers, StudioMDHR, made up of the two brothers Chad and Jared Moldenhauer, even stated that they themselves grew up watching old cartoons on compilation VHS tapes and late at night reruns.

While the art style is obviously incredibly retro inspired, the gameplay is as well. One of the most popular genre of 90's gaming was the side scrolling run and gun game. The gameplay is incredibly simple while also being very difficult but enjoyable to play. The player needs to move the titular character, Cuphead, from left to right on the screen with a small gun as their only weapon. This gameplay, while simple and fun, is also deceptively difficult, with many players taking to social media with their frustrations.

The art style of the game, being as beautiful as it is, also runs at 60 frames per second, making it look incredibly fluid and sharp. This graphical choice and fidelity allows players to trace the path of every bullet and projectile coming at their characters. The art style also allows for any single still screenshot of the game to look like it is taken straight out of a 1930's hand painted cartoon, like the old Disney Mickey Mouse cartoons.

The story of "Cuphead" is fairly simple, as is to be expected by its genre and inspirations. Side scrolling games are not usually known for rich and heavy stories like you would find in a "Grand Theft Auto" or "Life is Strange." Instead, the motivations of characters in this genre of games is usually as simple as "save the princess!" or "stop Dracula!".

The story of "Cuphead" simply resolves around the titular Cuphead and his brother, Mugman. Cuphead and Mugman sneak into a casino and eventually make a deal with the devil for their souls. They eventually lose to the Devil, who says that if they are able to collect the contracts other residents of their land owe him then he will let them go. The player then must battle many bosses to receive their soul contracts for the devil. The developers purposefully made the story a bit different than the standard "damsel in distress" trope, making the main problem of the game a problem brought along by Cuphead himself.

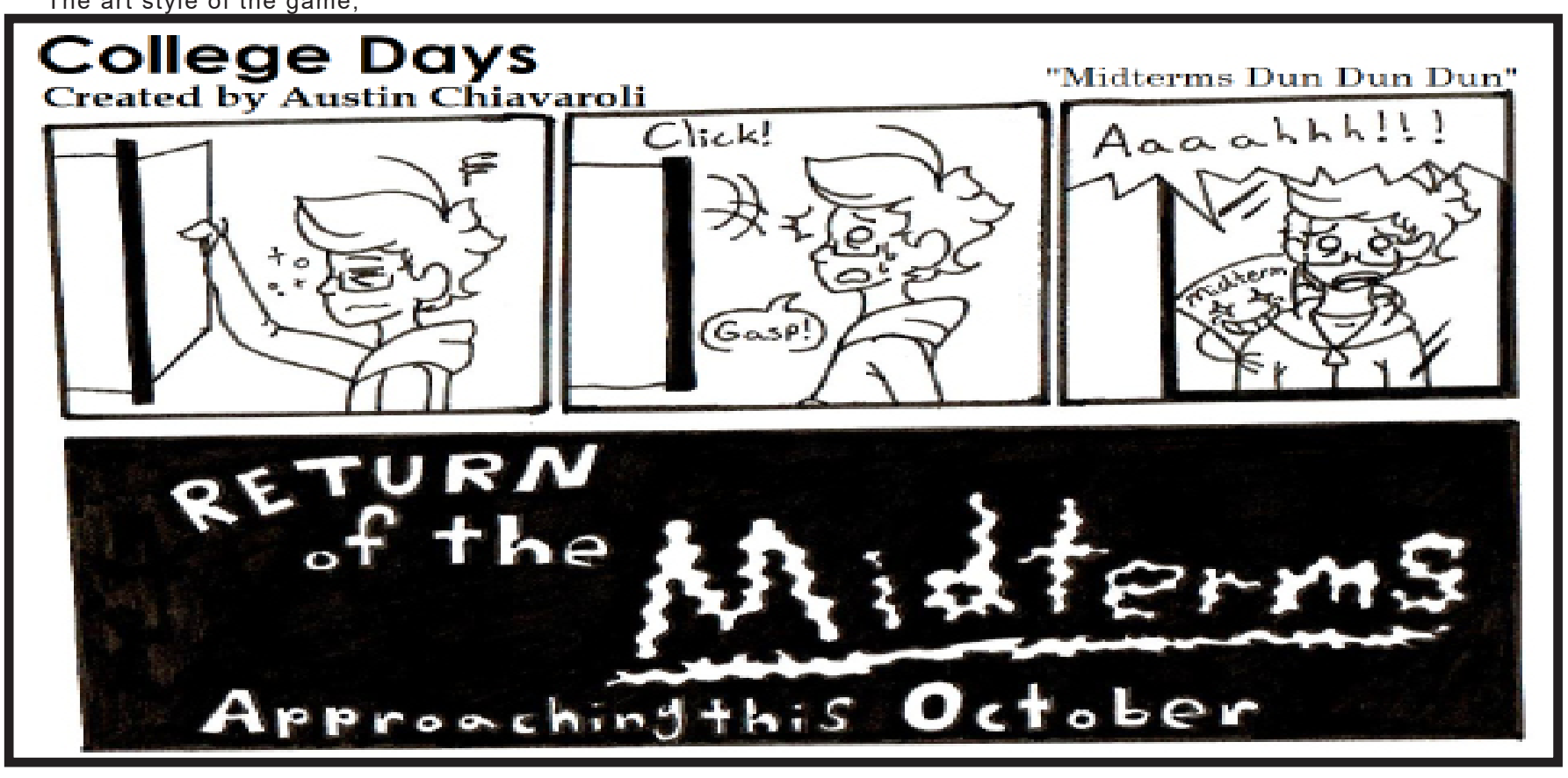
"Cuphead" released on Sep. 29, 2017, over three years after it was initially revealed to massive praise and sales from players and critics alike. The game received a 9.5 out of 10 from gaming magazine Destructoid, 5 stars from GamesRadar, and an 87/100 from Metacritic. These scores are very impressive for such a small game, especially being a small studio's first attempt at developing a video game.

The game has 30 bosses, and also has post-release support coming in the form of expansion packs, each with ten to fifteen more bosses each.

In a gaming environment full of triple-A massive budget video games all with similar playstyles and graphics, Cuphead stands out as an original and beautiful game hidden in the woodwork.

Photos by @StudioMDHR

"Cuphead" features many different kinds of bosses, with many gimmicks and tricks to keep the gameplay fresh and exciting.



Arts & Entertainment

Game Gone Wrong : "Gerald's Game" Movie Review

By Madison Whatley
Staff Writer

Photo by @Carla Gugino

"Gerald's Game" is compared to a subversion of Brian De Palma's "Misery."

When the romantic getaway of a strained couple becomes malicious, Carla Gugino as Jessie Burlingame is forced to mentally confront the vestiges of her repressed childhood trauma to survive the events caused by her husband, Gerald's (Bruce Greenwood) disturbing fantasies in the Netflix original thriller, "Gerald's Game." "Gerald's Game " is an adaptation of the Stephen King novel by the same name, released Sep. 29. This suspenseful, feminist film is undoubtedly worth watching for viewers that can persevere through many unsettling scenes.

Most of the film takes place in a small bedroom in a vacation home by the shore, and with Gerald's early removal, the film's limited setting and characters allow viewers to focus solely on the development of Jessie. Because she is rendered stationary throughout her predicament, the plot is mostly mental. Viewers learn about Jessie through her dreams depicting abuse that she received as a child as well as her hallucinations of herself and her husband representing the tension between her gutsy spirit and the meek persona that she had taken on in response to her traumatic experiences. Between the looming presence of her husband's rotting corpse, a starving, bloodthirsty dog, and an ominous man with a collection of bones and the threat of death by starvation and dehydration, Jessie is under high stress. It is easy to understand how these dark circumstances have drudged up tough memories for her. Her trauma is a mental block that could condemn her to death.

In the opening scene, the couple packs their bags as Sam Cooke's "Bring It on Home to Me" (1962) plays in the background. The scene shifts to the couple in the car on the way to the vacation home and Gerald is playing the song in the car until Jessie shuts it off to "enjoy nature." The song is sweet and upbeat, fit for an exciting occasion. However, closer inspection of the lyrics reveals a more sinister tone that foreshadows the dark turn that is about to take place in the film: "You know I'll always be your slave/ 'Till I'm buried, buried in my grave." Once Jessie is in the room, there is no music. The audience feels Jessie's anxiety and understands the helplessness of her situation. The audience only hears what she can: the sounds of the room. The only time that music comes up again is when Jessie recalls a specific instance of abuse against her as a child. Her father puts an oldies station on the radio, and during a pivotal moment, "Bring It on Home to Me" begins to play. This choice by the filmmaker shows the parallel between Jessie's husband and her father.

Jessie's uncovering of a long-forgotten piece of her past is what ultimately reveals to her a grizzly means of escaping the bedroom. The imagery of the solar eclipse in the film is symbolic of the overlap between her past and present. By surviving the ordeal, she brings herself "out of the darkness," but not without lingering repercussions. While it would be unrealistic to show a complete recovery from the abuse, the resolution instead portrays female empowerment as a journey of resilience. Jessie is finally able to exercise her potential and work towards her fulfillment.

It is especially refreshing to see feminism in a genre that is known for its objectification and weak characterizations of women. Although Jessie is the typical passive female victim at the beginning of the story, in a deviation from the norm, she becomes a hero for herself.

Director and co-writer Mike Flanagan is certainly earning his stripes in the horror genre. With recent 2016 works Hush and Ouija: Origin of Evil in addition to Gerald's Game as his most recent release, he is becoming known for creating suspense with vulnerable characters and confined spaces and executing it exceptionally well. Fans can look forward to his upcoming projects: a remake of I Know What You Did Last Summer (1997) and a Netflix original TV series The Haunting of Hill House based on the novel by Shirley Jackson.

Gerald's Game is a sophisticated and honest survival story that adds depth to the typically cookie-cutter genre of horror, but it is not suitable for younger or more squeamish audiences. For its originality and oddly uplifting mood:

Movie Review Score:
4.5 out of 5 Paws

Upcoming Events

Halloween Horror Nights

Location: 6000 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819

Dates: 9/15/17-11/4/17

Price: $59.99+

Howl-O-Scream

Location: 10165 N McKinley Dr, Tampa, FL 33612

Dates:9/22/17-10/29/17 (Select Nights)

Price: $39.99+

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Location: 27839 St Joe Rd, Dade City, FL 33525

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Price: $19.95+

Sports

Fantasy Football Sleeper Picks for Week 6

By Collin Moran
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This week in the NFL features some great matchups and figures to give us some great fantasy football performances. So far this season there have been some sleeper picks that ended winning people matchups with their great performance and hopefully that can continue this week. Here are the top sleepers in fantasy football for Week Six.

Robby Anderson, WR New York Jets:

There aren't many Jets worth starting usually, but in a matchup against a terrible Patriots defense, there are some names worth exploring. Heading into Week Six the Jets and the Patriots somehow both sit at 3-2 but it is pretty obvious that New York will most likely lose this divisional matchup. With that being said, Anderson figures to be a sneaky option at wide receiver this week seeing as the Jets may have to air it out a lot to keep this game competitive. The speedy wide receiver only has one touchdown this season but has a good chance to break a long score this week against the worst secondary in football. All Anderson needs is one big play to make him have starting value, and this could be the week Josh McCown finds him deep down the field. Consider the second year wide receiver to be a low-end flex play this week in a great matchup.

Jalen Richard, RB Oakland Raiders:

This will be a tough sell for most people, but there is reason to believe Richard can provide some value this week. This is Marshawn Lynch's job no doubt, but last week Lynch received 12 carries and Richard got a season high nine carries, possibly due to the fact that the Raiders would like to keep the ball on the ground more even if Derek Carr returns from his injury this week. The sophomore running back is currently producing 5.3 yards per carry and has looked much better than the struggling Marshawn Lynch (3.4 YPC). Lynch's struggles could allow the younger running back to see more opportunity behind one of the league's best offensive lines. This week

Photo by @PostBroncos

Jalen Richard could be featured much more in the Raiders run game with Marshawn Lynch Struggling.

the Chargers come to town with the worst run defense in football, Richard should be given even more chances by the coaching staff in this game to show what he can do. Richard probably won't receive any goal line carries but should be able to get some nice yardage making him an intriguing flex option in deeper leagues this week.

Trevor Siemian, QB Denver Broncos:

The third year quarterback has slowed down a bit since he started the season hot with six touchdowns in the first two games of the season. The Broncos had a Bye in Week Four, but the two games before that Siemian only had a combined one touchdown to go along with two interceptions. There is reason for optimism this week when the Giants come to the mile high city as their defense has allowed 10 passing touchdowns to go along with only one interception. The Giants are still looking for their first win and this should be a fairly easy matchup for Denver now that Odell Beckham Jr. is done for the season. If Siemian can play mistake-free football, expect a couple of passing touchdowns to go along with around 200 passing yards. With quarterbacks like Dak Prescott and Russell Wilson on bye weeks, Siemian can be an above average fill-in with some nice upside.

Ameer Abdullah, RB Detroit Lions:

Anyone who bought into the Ameer Abdullah hype in the preseason has been somewhat disappointed thus far. He hasn't been a bad flex play with at least eight fantasy points in three of five games this year in standard scoring, but he hasn't been showing the breakthrough play we've all been waiting for. The third year running back is getting the majority of the touches in the backfield as he has been averaging around 15 carries per game, now it's time for him to start producing consistently. The Lions have a nice matchup against a Saints defense that has thus far given up 4.5 yards per carry, so it's a great matchup for Abdullah. He has shown he can produce like a star running back with a great performance in Week Four when he ran for 94 yards and a touchdown. It was discouraging to see Zach Zenner get a goal line touchdown last week but this is Abdullah's backfield and he should be able to put up RB2 numbers in this great matchup on Sunday.

Eric Decker, WR Tennessee Titans:

It's tough to trust anyone in the Titans passing game especially if Marcus Mariota isn't playing, but this week the team has a solid matchup against an awful pass defense. Eric Decker has been very disappointing thus far and hasn't even been startable on his new team, but a nice matchup on Monday night might be able to change things. The veteran wide receiver is a big target in the short passing game and it wouldn't be shocking to see him score his first touchdown of the season against the Colts. Even if Marcus Mariota doesn't play, Decker provides a nice target for any quarterback to throw to. It hasn't panned out for owners thus far, but a nice prime time matchup could make him a nice sleeper option to slot into your flex spot this week. Hold onto Decker for at least one more week to see if he can take advantage of a nice matchup at home.

Photo by RocketRich30

Trevor Siemian will look to have a great game against a Giants secondary that has allowed 10 passing touchdowns this season.

Josh Doctson, WR Washington Redskins:

Doctson makes this list as the final player to be featured, he's being added on here as a very deep sleeper, meaning that he should only be given a shot in leagues larger than 12 teams. The bad thing about the second year wide receiver is that he's only received six targets over three games, so there is a very low floor associated with him. The good news is that he has scored a deep touchdown on one of his three catches and Kirk Cousins looked his way in the end zone at the end of their Week Four game. If the trend continues, Doctson will keep building his chemistry with Cousins and may have a good chance to find the end zone against the 49ers. San Francisco has been one of the worst defenses against the pass this year and the former first round pick might be able to find the end zone.

Upcoming Games Week Ending 10/13/17 - 10/19/17

Men's Soccer
10/14- @ Nova SouthEastern 7:00p.m.
10/18- @ Rollins 7:00p.m.

Women's Soccer
10/14- @ Eckerd 7:00 p.m.
10/10- @ Rollins 7:00 p.m.

Cross Country M
10/13-@South Florida Invite- U.S.F 7:40 a.m.

Women's Volleyball
10/14-@South Region Crossover
10/17- vs Florida Southern 7:00 p.m.